

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A video production switcher, comprising:
an integrated digital video effects processor having processing elements,
one or more keyers;
one or more mixers;
one or more effects devices; and
routing elements,
wherein the digital video effects processor has ~~a dedicated connection~~ dedicated
connections from the one or more keyers, the one or more mixers, the effects devices, and the
routing elements to the processing elements of the digital video effects processor,
wherein said dedicated connections guarantee routing of video and key signals
between the processing elements of the digital video effects processor and the one or more
keyers, the one or more mixers, the one more effects devices, and the routing elements.

13. (Previously Presented) The video production switcher of claim 12, further comprising:
a microprocessor; and
software,
wherein control of the digital video effects processor is performed by the
microprocessor and software.

14. (Previously Presented) The video production switcher of claim 13, further comprising
an integrated digital video effects (DVE) unit, wherein effects and memories of the DVE unit
are recalled by the microprocessor and the software.

15. (Previously Presented) The video production switcher of claim 12, where video is
routed from within a processing path of a multi-level effects device to the digital video

effects processor, allowing partially composited signals to be processed by the digital video effects processor.

16. (Currently Amended) The video production switcher of claim 12, wherein video within the one or more keyers is routed directly to the digital video effects processor, and a resultant video is re-inserted into the one or more keyers.

17. (Previously Presented) The video production switcher of claim 12, further comprising dedicated keying resources to composite effects and transitions performed by the digital video effects processor, wherein the one or more keyers remain available for effects as determined by a user.

18. (Previously Presented) The video production switcher of claim 12, further comprising a user interface to manipulate the digital video effects processor, wherein control of the digital video effects processor is fully integrated into the user interface.

19. (Previously Presented) The video production switcher of claim 12, further comprising two or more integrated digital video effects processors.

20. (Previously Presented) The video production switcher of claim 12, further comprising means for allowing storage and recall of effects and memories on the video production switcher simultaneously with effects and memories of the digital video effects processor in an integrated manner.

21. (Previously Presented) The video production switcher of claim 17, further comprising means for allowing selection of effects, and pre-layer video to be manipulated by the digital video effects processor, and composited using the dedicated keying resources.

22. (Previously Presented) The video production switcher of claim 18, wherein the user interface includes at least one of a dedicated control panel, and a software application on a personal computer.

23. (New) A video production switcher, comprising:
a multi-level effects (MLE) device comprising one or more keyers, one or more mixers, and routing elements; and
a digital video effects processor integrated into the MLE device with the one or more keyers, one or more mixers, and routing elements.
24. (New) The video production switcher of claim 23, wherein the digital video effects processor is implemented as a pluggable option module.
25. (New) The video production switcher of claim 23, further comprising:
a microprocessor; and
software,
wherein control of the digital video effects processor is performed by the microprocessor and software.
26. (New) The video production switcher of claim 25, further comprising an integrated digital video effects (DVE) unit, wherein effects and memories of the DVE unit are recalled by the microprocessor and the software.
27. (New) The video production switcher of claim 23, wherein video is routed within a processing path of the MLE device to the digital video effects processor, allowing partially composited signals to be processed by the digital video effects processor.
28. (New) The video production switcher of claim 23, wherein video within the one or more keyers is routed directly to the digital video effects processor, and a resultant video is re-inserted into the one or more keyers.
29. (New) The video production switcher of claim 23, the MLE device further comprising dedicated keying resources to composite effects and transitions performed by the digital video effects processor, wherein the one or more keyers remain available for effects as determined by a user.

30. (New) The video production switcher of claim 23, further comprising a user interface to manipulate the digital video effects processor, wherein control of the digital video effects processor is fully integrated into the user interface.

31. (New) The video production switcher of claim 23, further comprising:
one or more further MLE devices; and
a respective digital video effects processor integrated into the one or more further MLE devices.